3/24/05

REMARKS

Claims 1-20 have been cancelled. New claims 21-29 have been added. Support for the amendment may be found throughout the application and in particular with reference to figures 5-12 and the corresponding text. Support for a cannula is found throughout the application at for example figures 28, 29 and the corresponding text.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §101:

ArthroCare Corporation 680 Vaqueros Avenue

(408) 736-0224

Sunnyvale, California 94085-3523

According to the Office Action, claims 1-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §101 as claiming the same invention as that of (U.S. Pat. No. 6,296,659).

This rejection is now mooted as claims 1-20 have been cancelled.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, a telephone call to the undersigned attorney at below listed number will be appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,

Richard R. Batt

Reg. No. 43,485